

RFK Will Introduce Anti-Snooping Bill, Wiretapping Curb

By John P. MacKenzie '20/67
Washington Post Staff Writer

Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D-N.Y.), target of recent criticism over eavesdropping by Federal agents, said yesterday he plans to introduce some anti-snooping legislation soon.

"The time has come," Kennedy said in a New York speech, "for Congress to reform completely our approach to wiretapping and to eavesdropping."

Kennedy's speech gave no details, but aides in Washington said the proposal probably

would make illegal some of the practices of FBI and Treasury agents during his tenure as Attorney General. Kennedy has denied knowledge of the practices.

President Johnson said in his State of the Union message that Congress "should outlaw all wiretapping, public and private" except in national security cases and "exercise the full reach of our constitutional powers to outlaw electronic bugging and snooping."

Kennedy aides said they could not tell from the President's address whether the Senator's proposals would be more or less sweeping than the Administration's. They said the Kennedy bill would be offered within a month.

Present Administration plans to await the outcome of a Supreme Court decision, probably in June, on the constitutionality of judicially authorized "bugging" by New York State investigators, before offering legislation.

Kennedy's remarks on eavesdropping were contained in three sentences of a 19-page address on urban crime problems to the Law School Forum at Columbia University.

Kennedy praised the work of the District of Columbia Crime Commission, calling its recent report to the President "a constructive set of recommendations for across-the-board action in the District."

He said he awaited "with interest" the report of Mr. Johnson's National Crime Commission and went on to make proposals of his own on police, court and corrections problems.

Kennedy said one urgen

need was to put more police on the streets." Noting that urban ghetto studies usually stress poor police-community relations, Kennedy said "the overriding problem of ghetto residents—their abiding need—is for physical security, and thus for more police protection."

The Senator also suggested police recruitment for short-term service with a possible exemption from the draft for some recruits.

James Vorenberg, executive director of the National Crime Commission, declined to say whether the Commission has a similar proposal in mind.